

Congressional Structure

U-2

7 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: A/DD/P/A

SUBJECT: Agency Appearances before Congressional Committees

1. It is my understanding that you wished some material for a speech dealing with the Agency's appearances before congressional committees. I shall try to give you what you need but if further details are needed please let me know.

✓ 2. The parent committees for the Agency are the Armed Services Committees in the House and Senate. In each case a Subcommittee has been established to which the Agency reports on a periodic basis. In the Senate this is a five-man Subcommittee headed by the Chairman of the full Committee and in the House it is a seven-man Subcommittee headed by the ranking majority member next following the Chairman himself. When the House Subcommittee was reconstituted at the beginning of the first session of the 86th Congress, its mission was stated to be a thorough review of Agency activities. In the case of both of the Armed Services Subcommittees the Agency does discuss its actual functions and activities.

3. The Agency also deals on a periodic basis with the two Appropriations Committees and again in each case a Subcommittee has been established, chaired by the Chairman of the full Committee. These are five-man Subcommittees. The Agency presents its annual budget to these Subcommittees and on occasion the Subcommittees have reviewed in some detail the budget requests. These two Subcommittees with the Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees are the four Committees which in fact have jurisdiction over CIA. The security over the years with these four Subcommittees has been excellent. Unusual security

measures are taken when CIA appears including in some cases no transcripts and in other cases CIA actually provides the reporter and eventually stores for safekeeping the transcript.

4. In addition to the above four Subcommittees, the Agency provides intelligence briefings to a number of other Committees of the Congress including, but not limited to,

Senate Foreign Relations
Senate Committee on Astronautics and Space Sciences
Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of
Senate Armed Services
Senate Internal Security Subcommittee
House Foreign Affairs
House Science and Astronautics Committee
Defense Subcommittee of House Appropriations
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Joint Economic Committee (unusual session in that
Mr. Dulles appeared in open session to discuss
comparisons of U. S. and Soviet economies).

With the exception noted, all intelligence briefings of congressional committees are in executive session and with one other exception no transcripts are ever released in censored form. In former years the appearances of the Agency before congressional committees were very limited, occurring possibly a half dozen times in a year. In the last three years, however, Agency appearances have averaged between 25 and 30 per year. Not included in the listing of Committees above are a few occasions when the Agency actually appears in support of specific legislation having applicability to the Agency. Examples of this were before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee on the Overseas Allowances bill and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in support of legislation regarding exchange of restricted data with foreign countries.

5. While you may not wish to use this, I think it might be of interest and it is all a matter of public record in connection with the U-2 affair. Representative Cannon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, went on the floor to discuss the incident and in the course of it clearly stated that his Committee had been advised of the existence of the project in connection with making available funds for the project.

continued

Subsequently, both Senators Wiley and Lausche in discussing the U-2 incident specifically made a point of the fact that appropriate members of Congress had been informed of the U-2 project although the entire membership had not and that, consequently, responsibility for the conduct of the U-2 program including its risks was in fact a responsibility of the Congress. The specific speeches on the floor of Congress will be made available if desired.

6. Possibly there are other items which you would like and which we would be glad to furnish. We will be pleased to assist on this in any way. Having in mind a senior Agency official discussing in public the relationship of the Congress and the Agency and its possible impact on individual members of the Congress, I suggest we might have some useful comment on that portion of your speech when you have put it together.

S/ John S. Warner

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

cc: IG

Col. Grogan

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